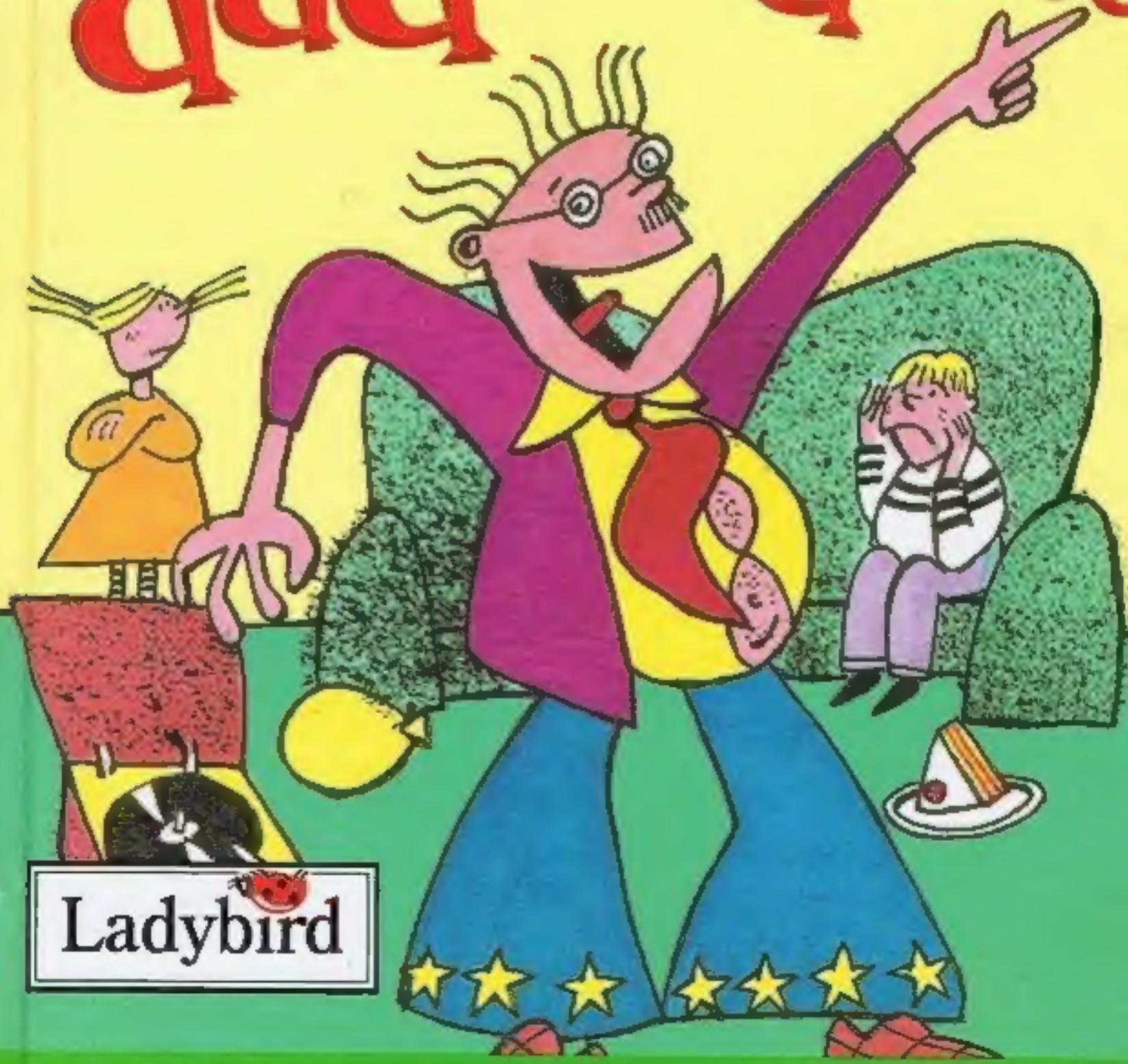


BOOK

# I Read with Ladybird

## My dad can't dance



Ladybird

Four simple stories to help your child learn to read

## About this book: My dad can't dance

Through a variety of writing and styles of illustration, *My dad can't dance*, shows your child how reading can be an entertaining adventure. This variety acknowledges that your child is developing his own tastes, preferences and reactions to what he reads. *My diary* features the days of the week.

## How to use this book

As you read this book, talk to your child about what he likes or doesn't like about the stories and pictures. Does he find any of them particularly funny or sad? How would he feel if he had to move to a new town and a new school where he didn't know anyone? You could also take the opportunity to encourage your child to keep his own diary. This would enable him to practise his writing and spelling in an enjoyable and productive way. Notes on each story and rhyme can be found on pages 34–35.

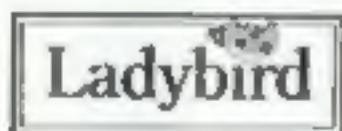
This book belongs to:

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Printed in Italy

# My dad can't dance



written by Lorraine Horsley  
illustrated by Julian Mosedale

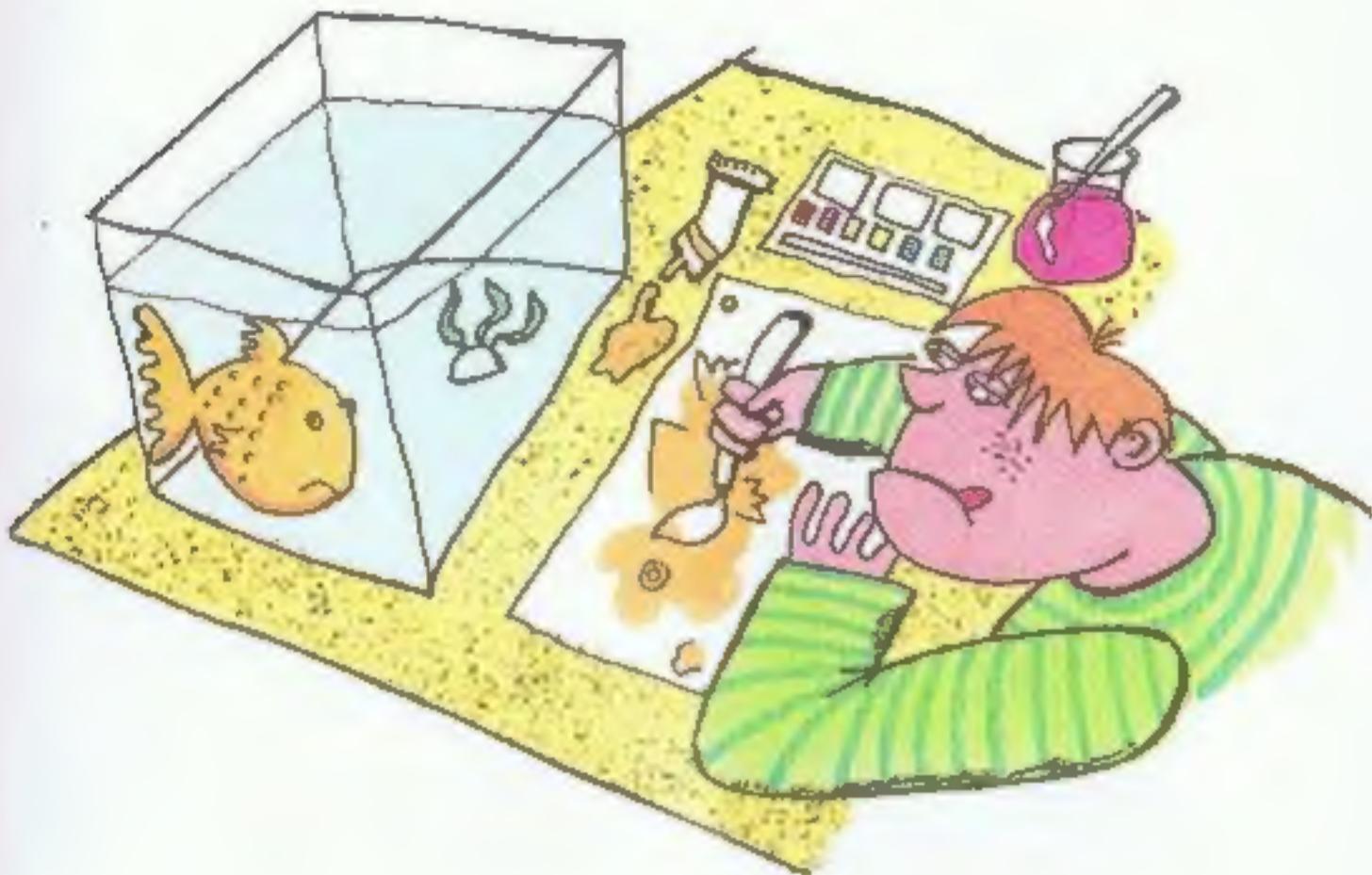
My dad can't dance,



and my mum can't sing.



My brother can't paint,



and I can't do a thing.



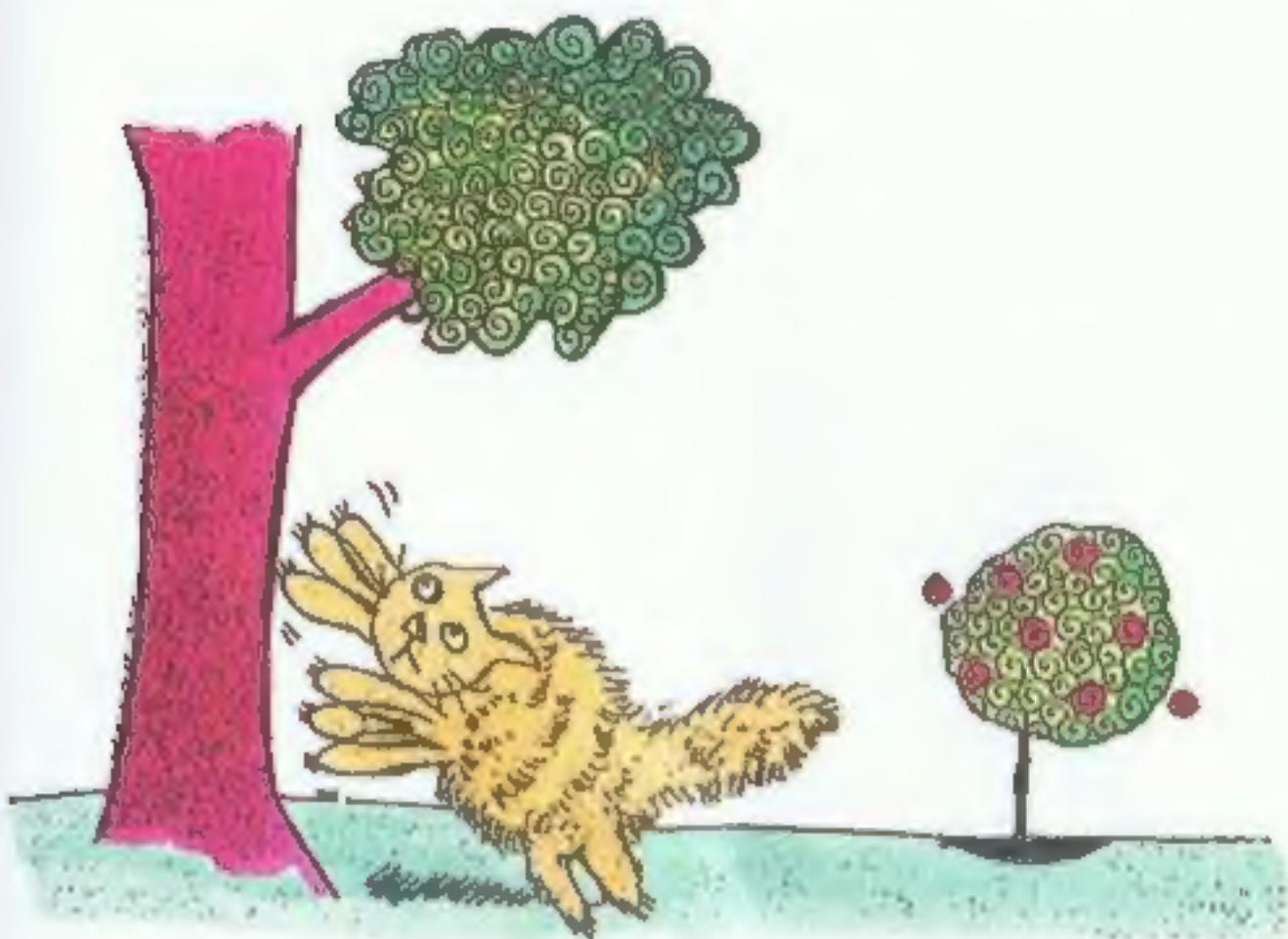
My sister can't skip,



and the baby can't talk.



Our cat can't climb,



and our dog won't walk.



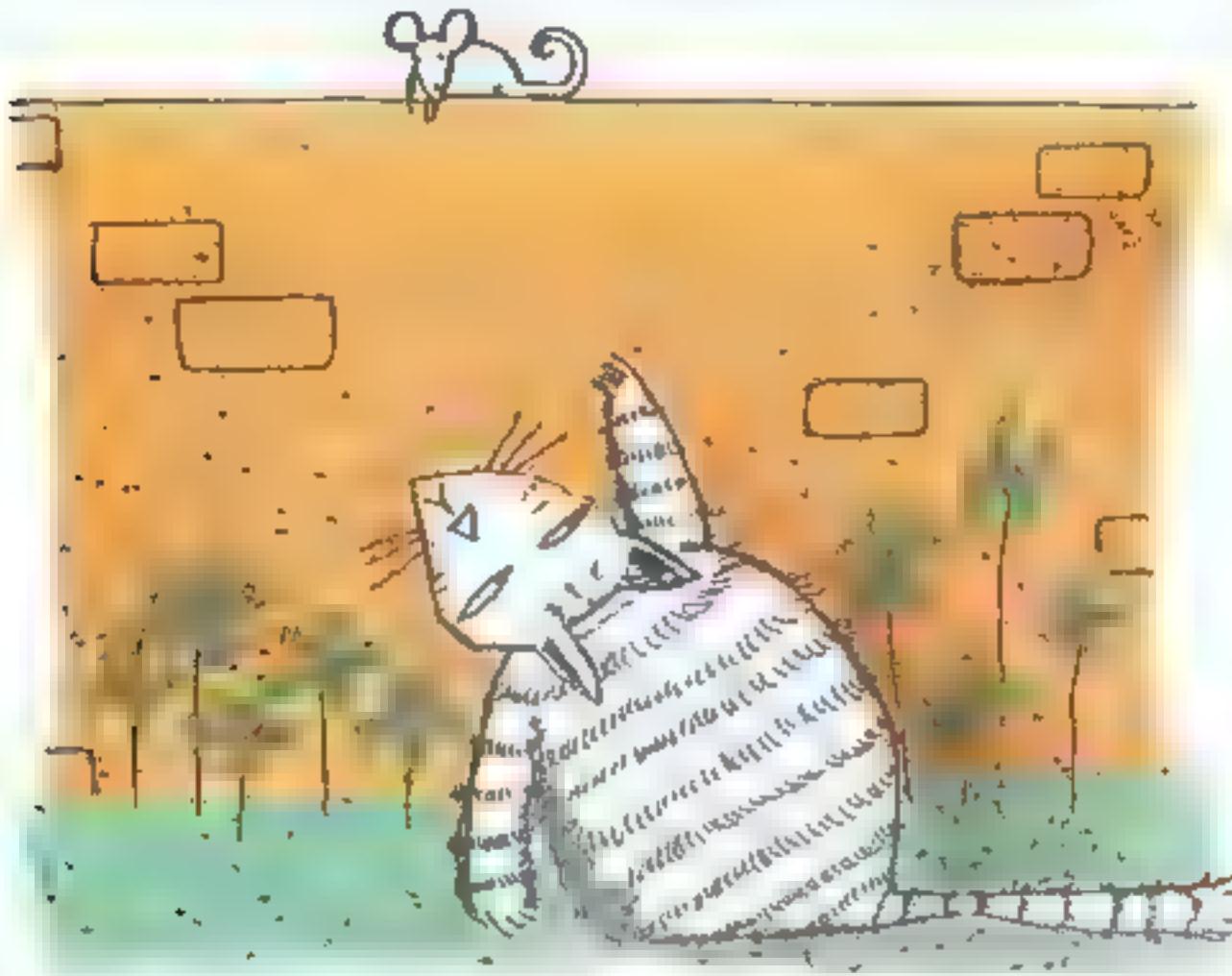
Grandad can't cook,



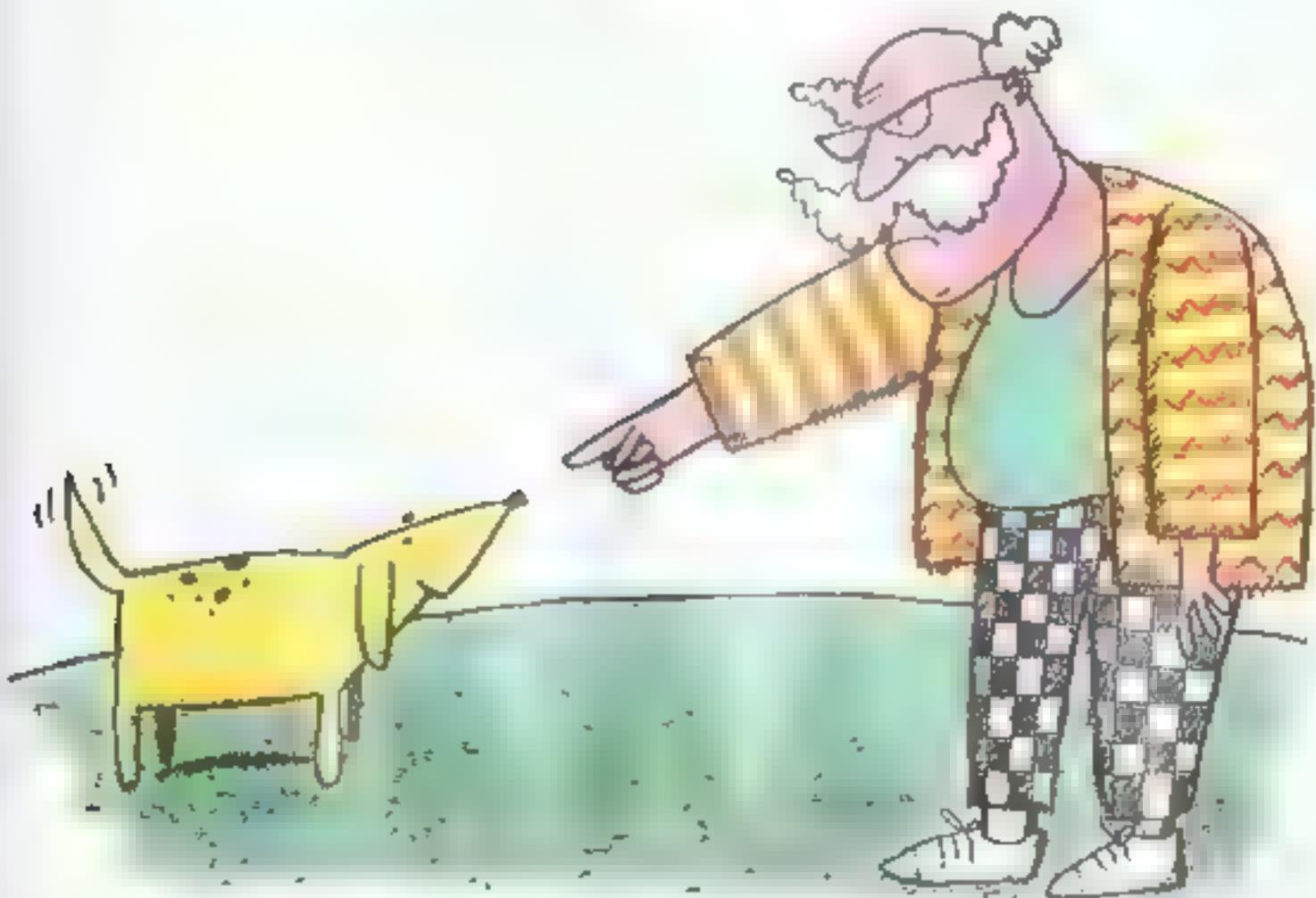
and Granny can't knit.



Their cat can't climb,



and their dog won't sit.



When you look at us,  
it's plain to see,



we can't do much,  
but we're a great family.

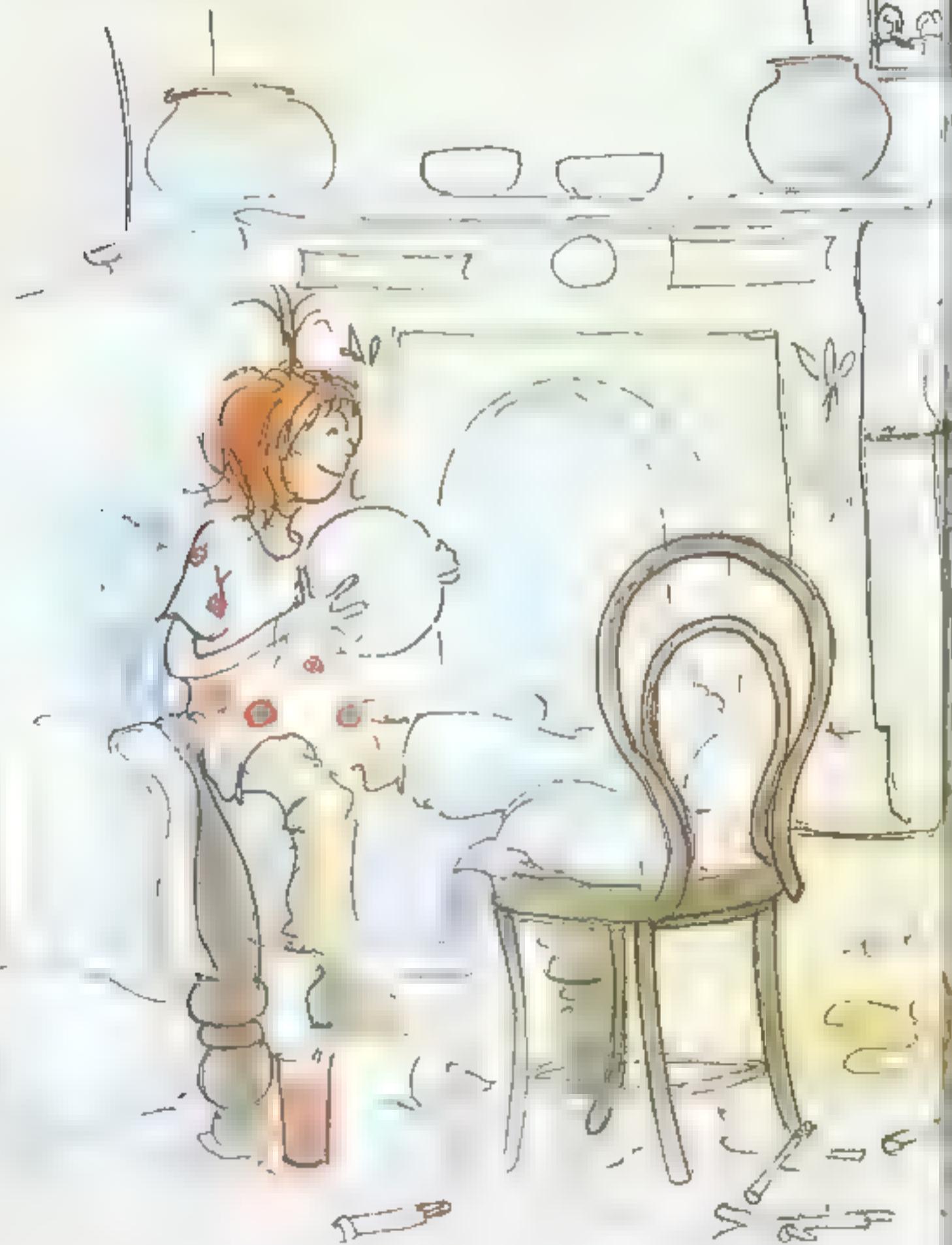
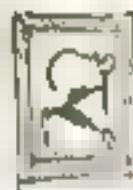
# When I broke my leg



written by Catriona Macgregor

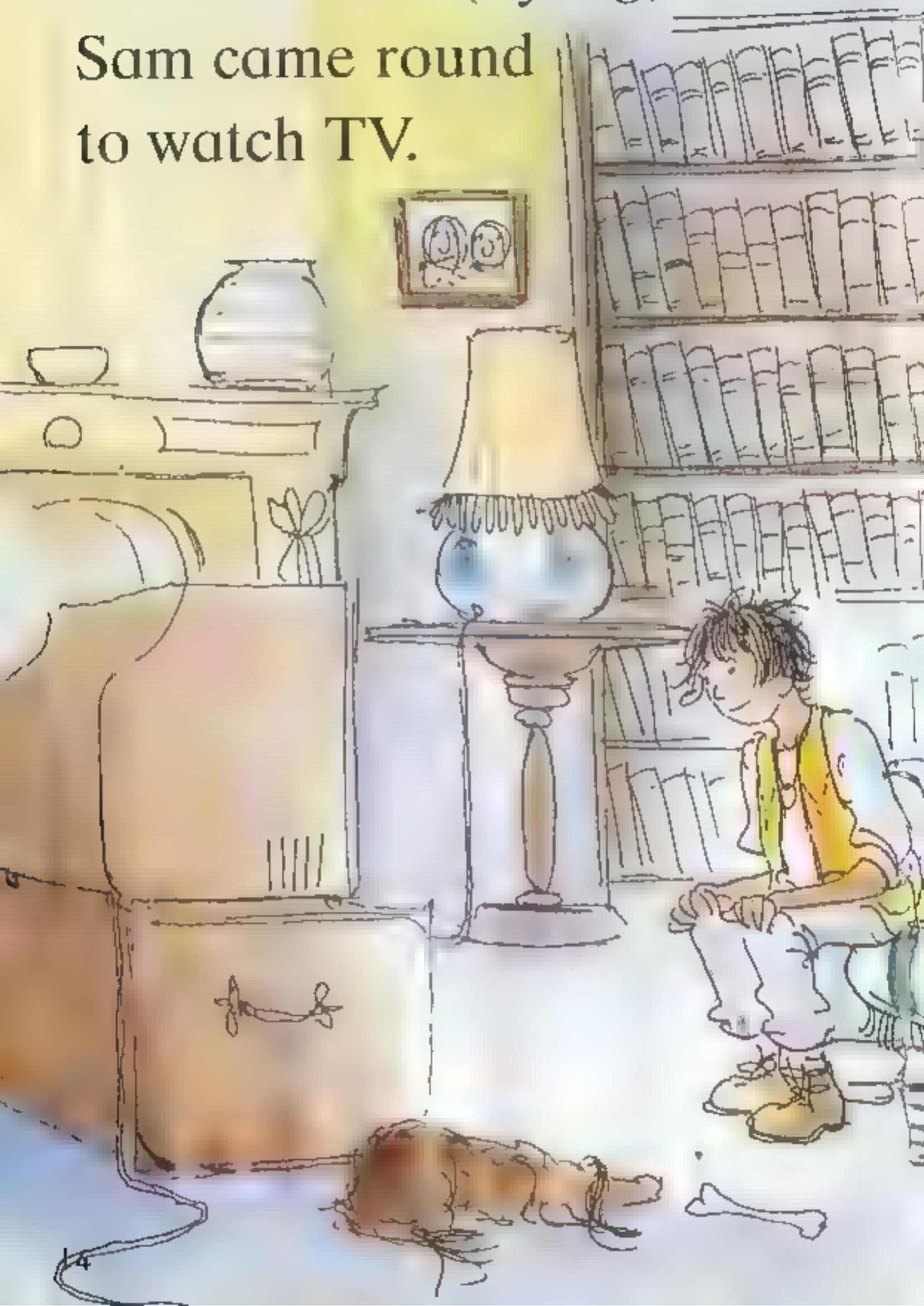
illustrated by Harmen van Straaten

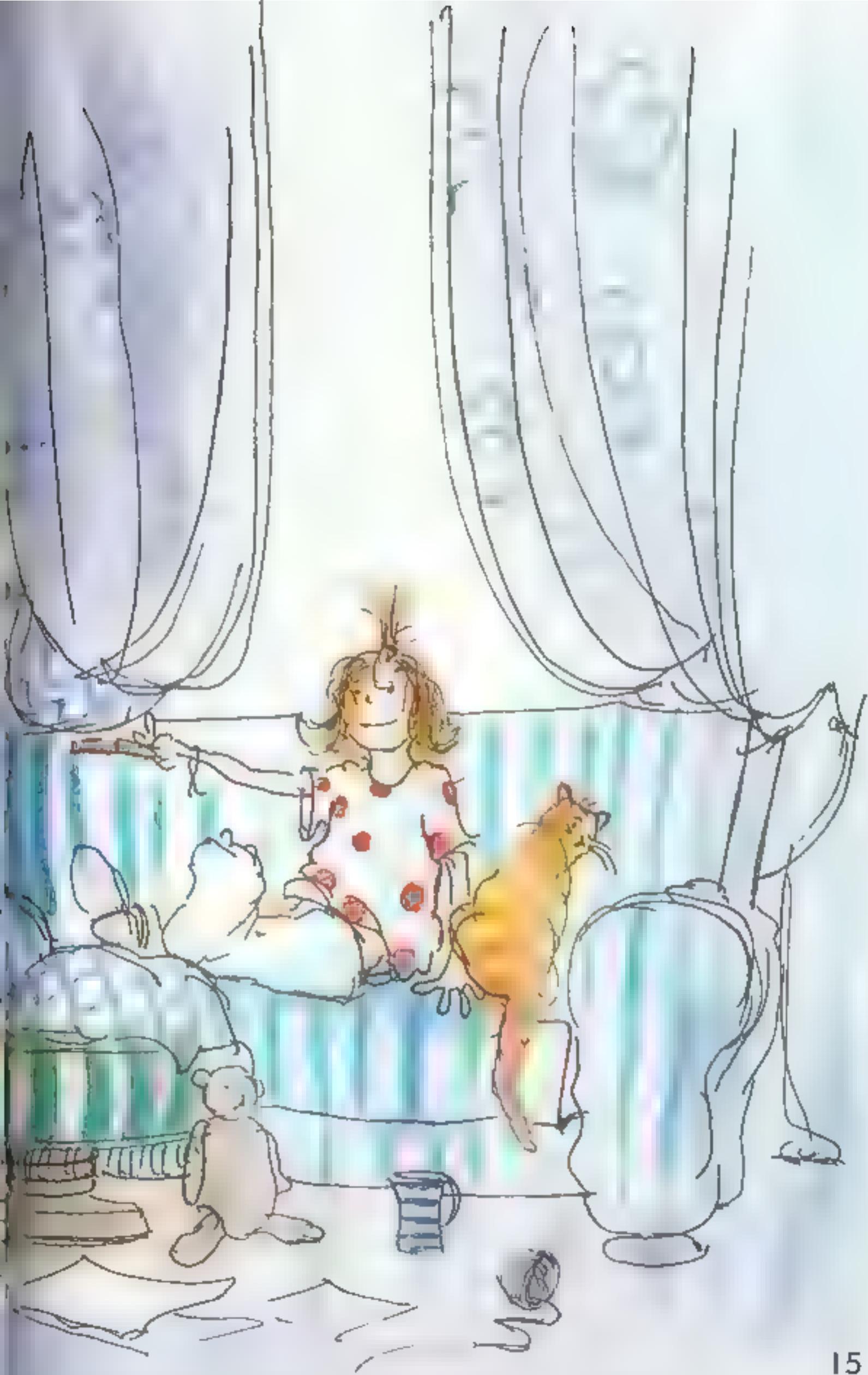
When I broke my leg,  
Lucy came round with  
her friend from school.



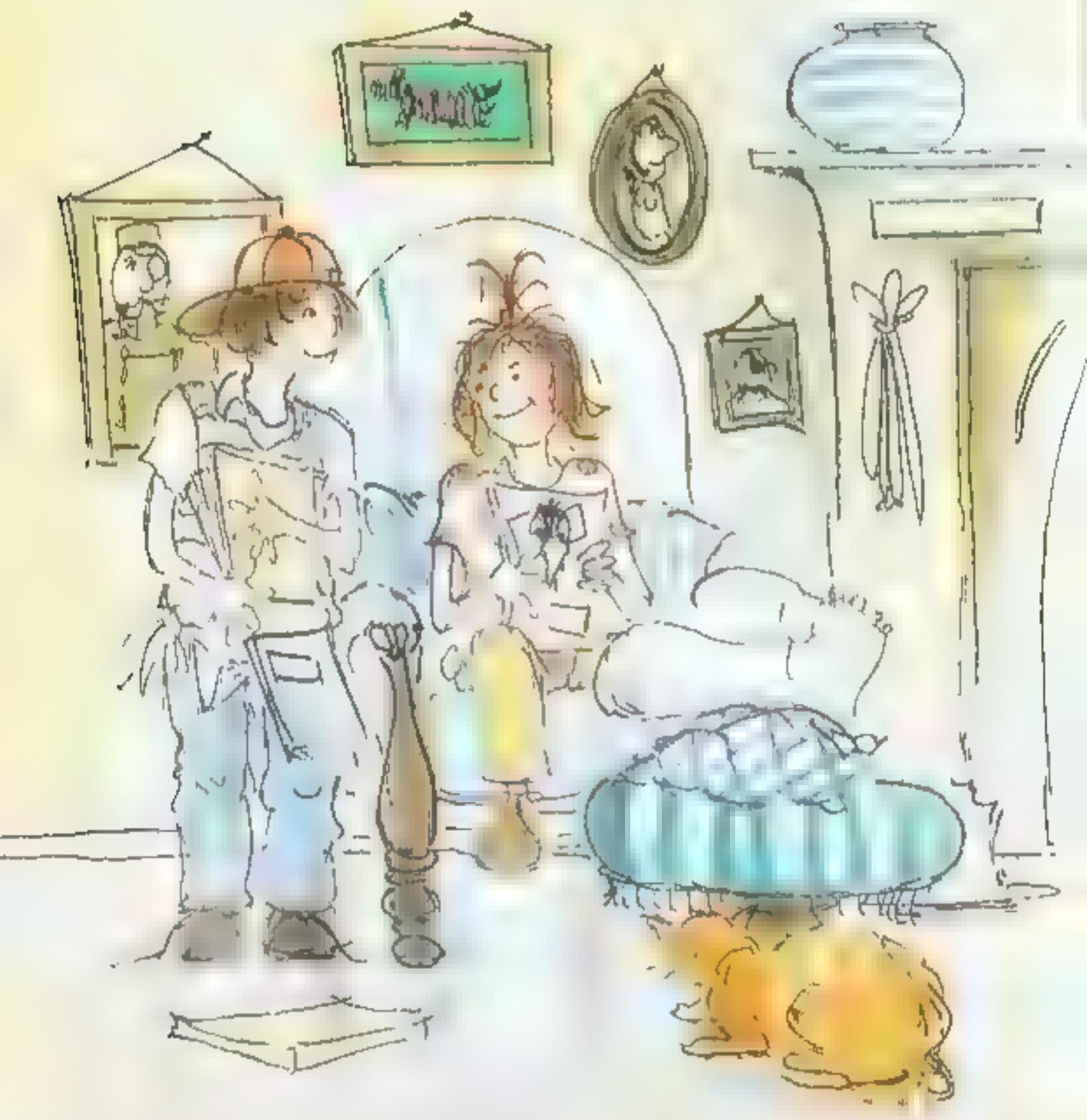


When I broke my leg,  
Sam came round  
to watch TV.





When I broke my leg,  
Ben came round with  
lots of comics.



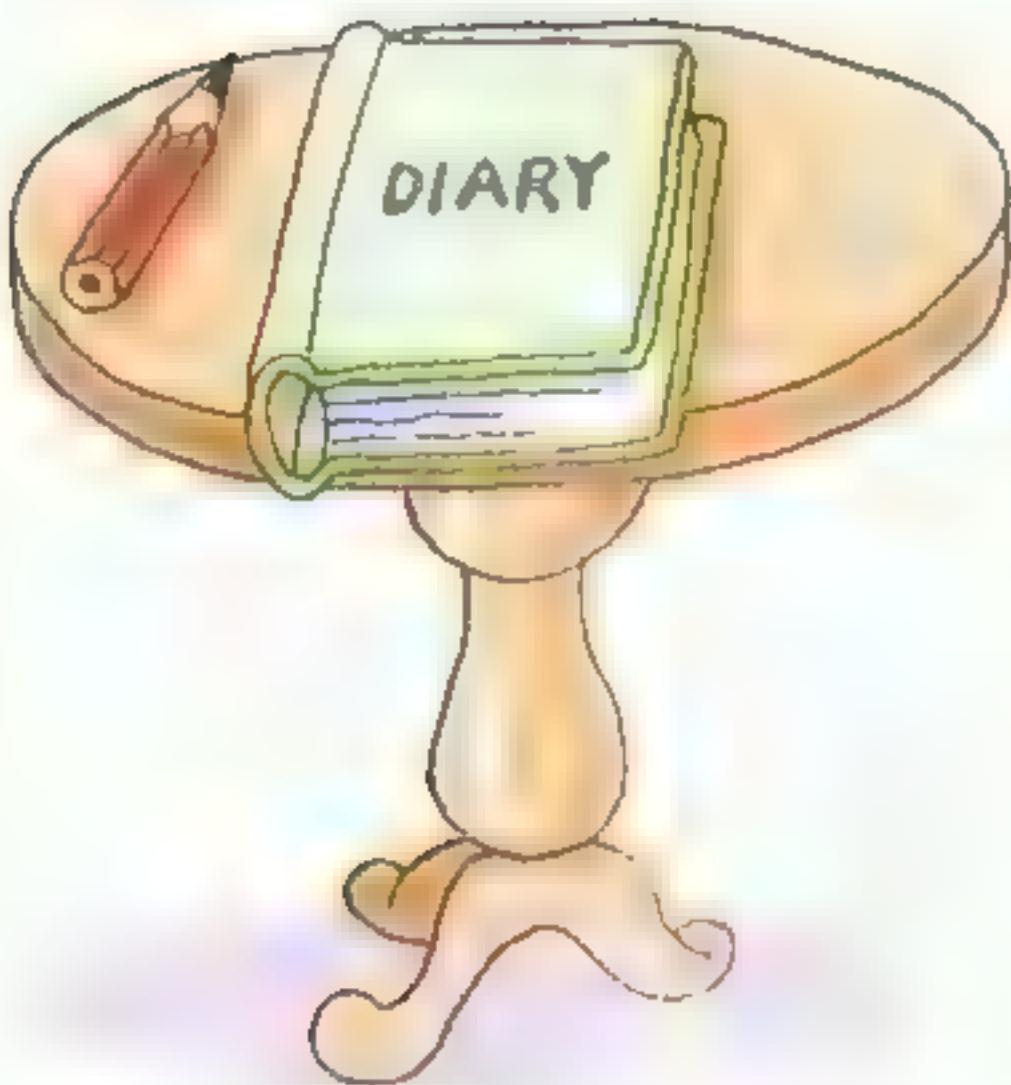
When I broke my leg,  
Gran came round with  
a great big cake.



It was great, when I broke  
my leg!



# My diary



written by Shirley Jackson

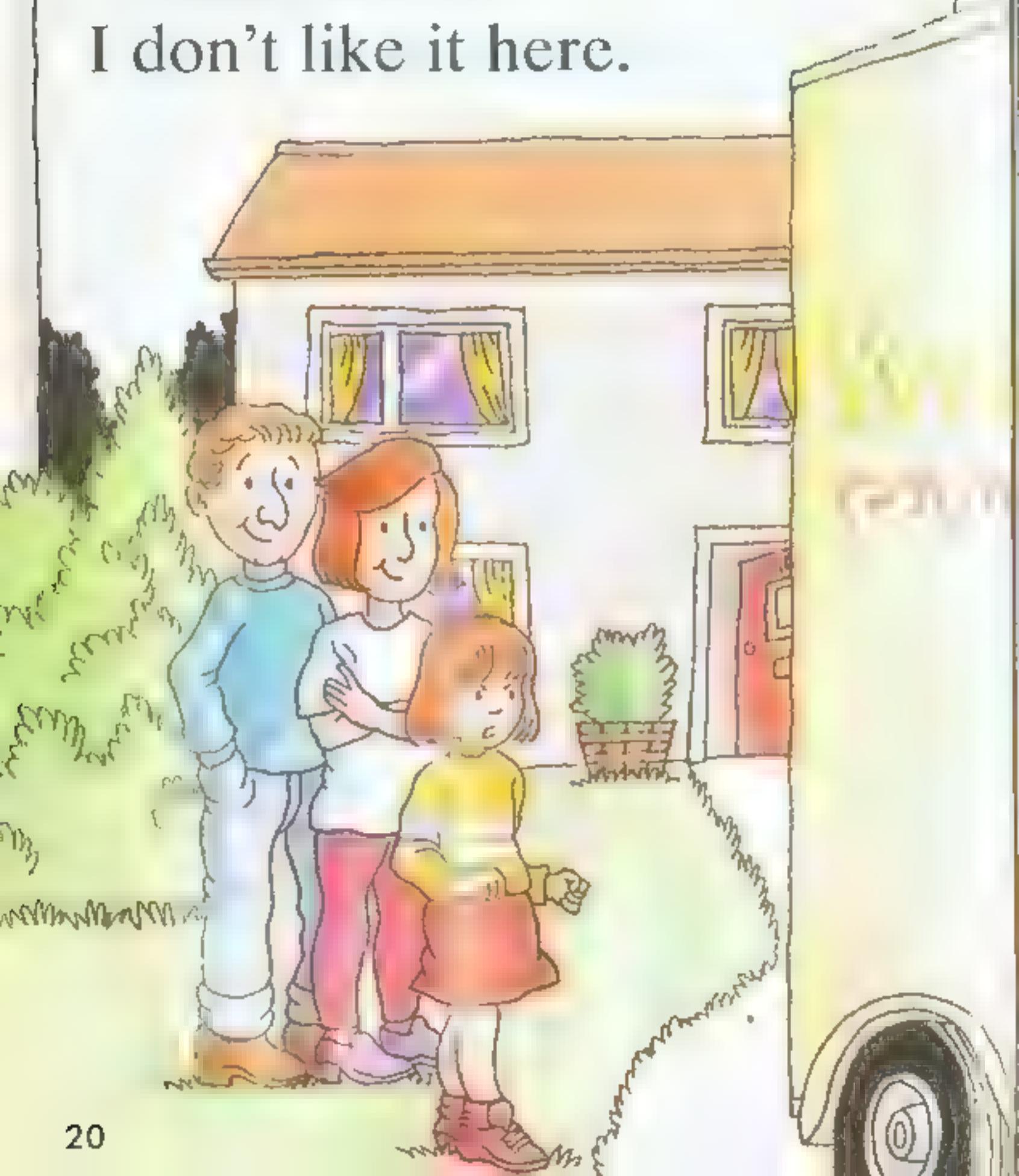
illustrated by Dave McTuggart

# Sunday

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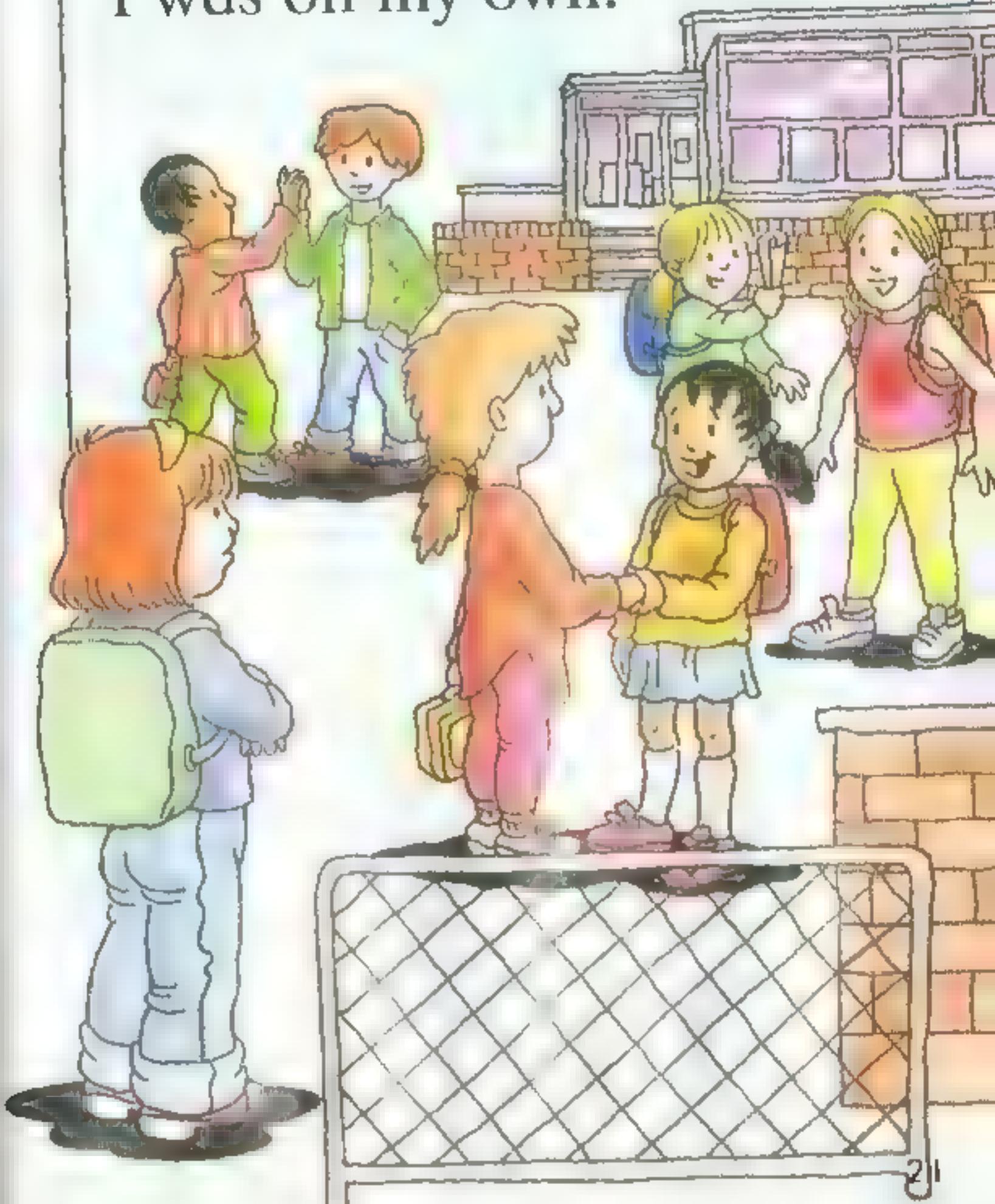
We went to our new house  
in a new town.

I don't like it here.



# Monday

I went to my new school.  
I was on my own.



# Tuesday

I made my first friend.  
He is called James.



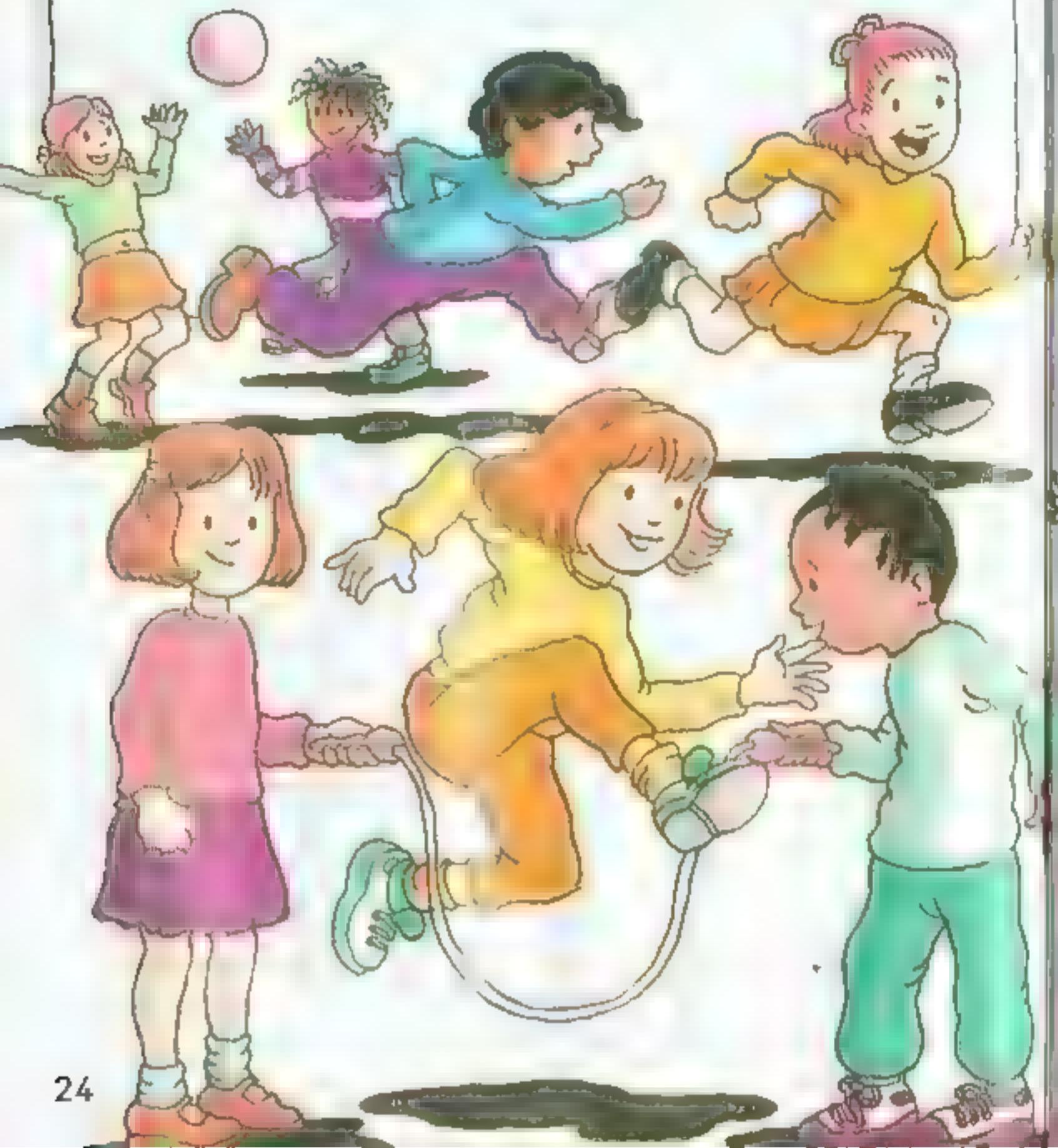
# Wednesday

I helped my teacher  
to put up my painting.  
James put his up too.



# Thursday

I made lots more friends.  
I'm not on my own now.



# Friday

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Our class went swimming  
in the big pool.

I was the best swimmer.



# Saturday

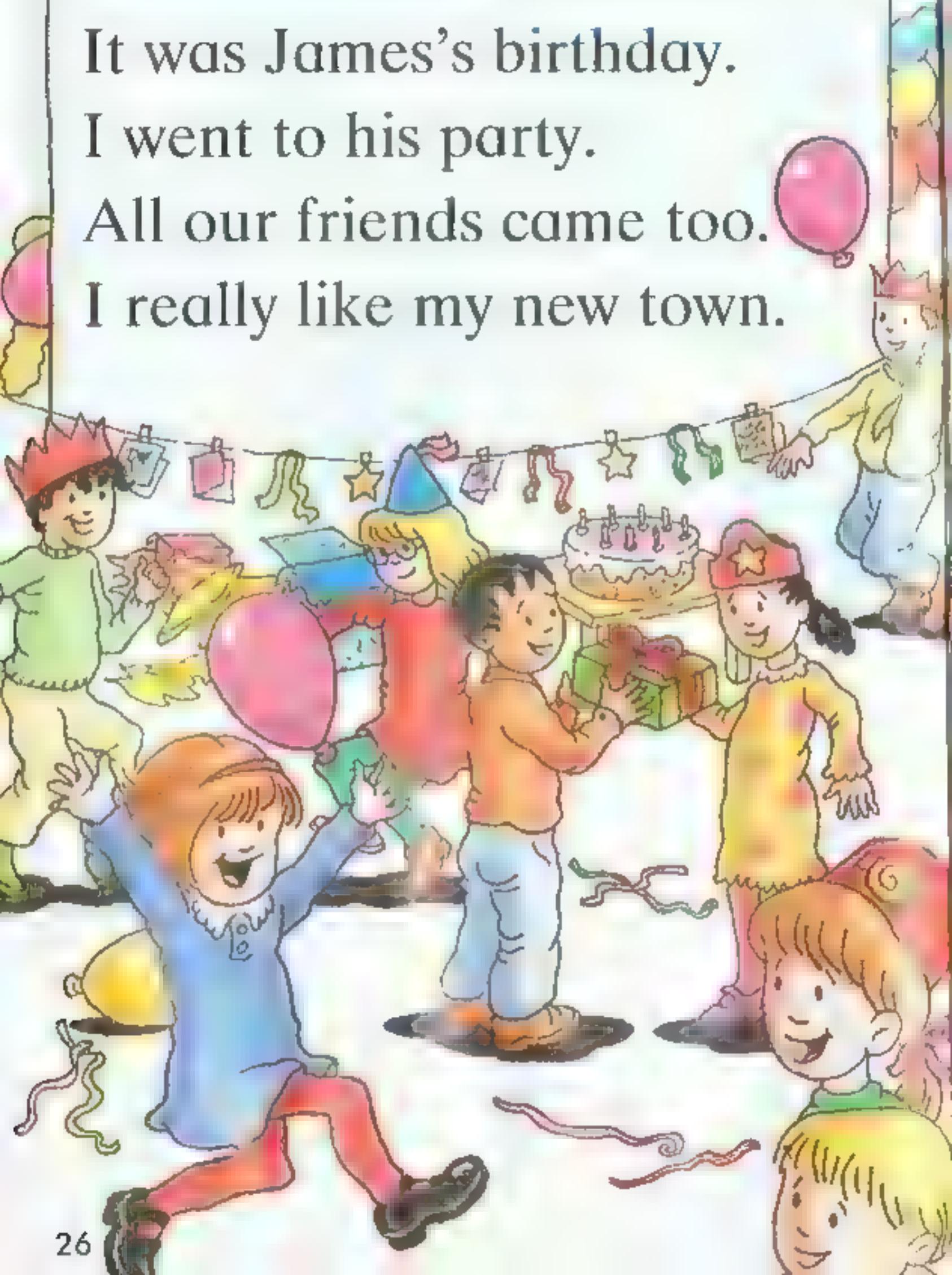
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It was James's birthday.

I went to his party.

All our friends came too.

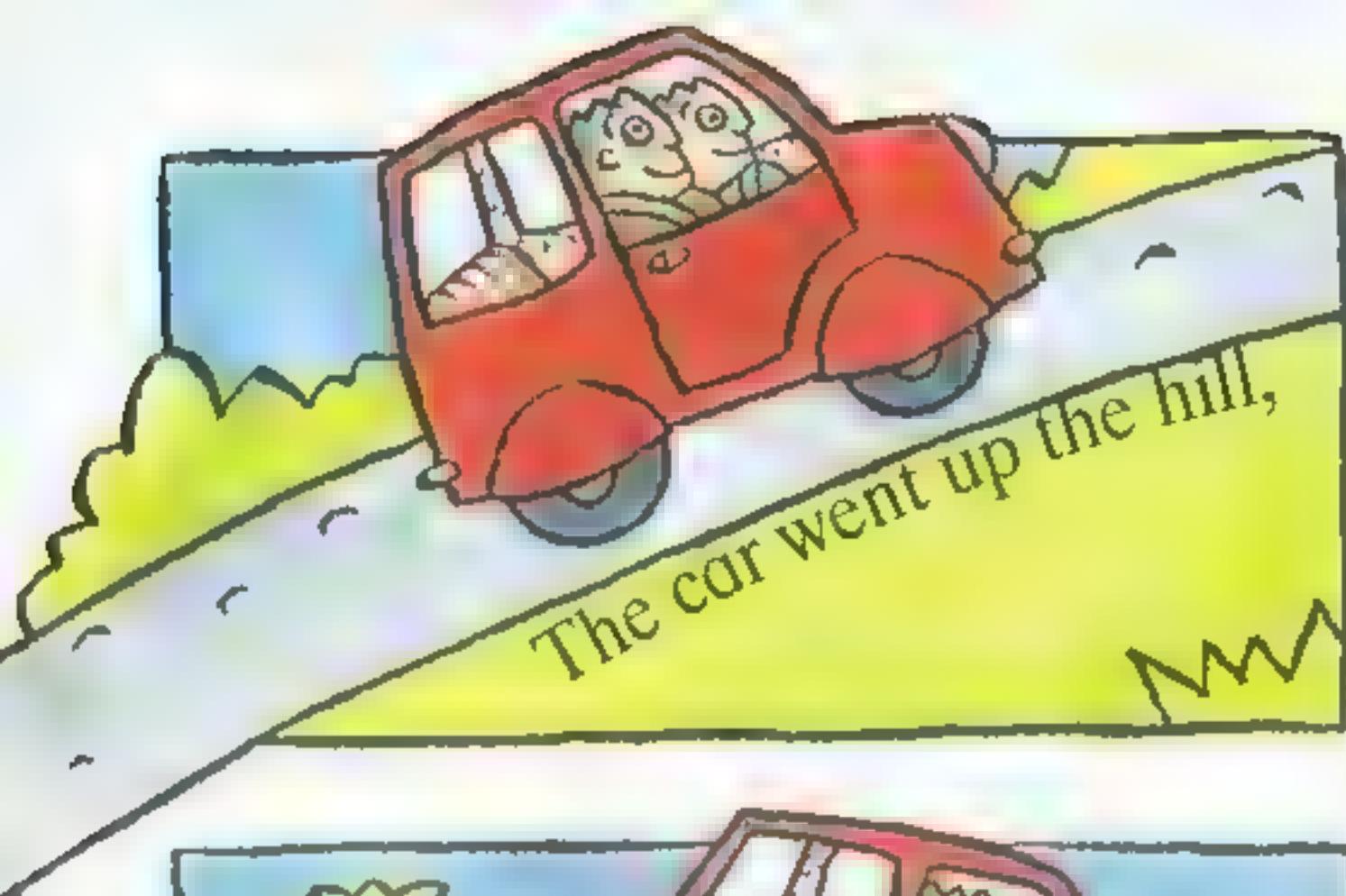
I really like my new town.



# A rough ride home



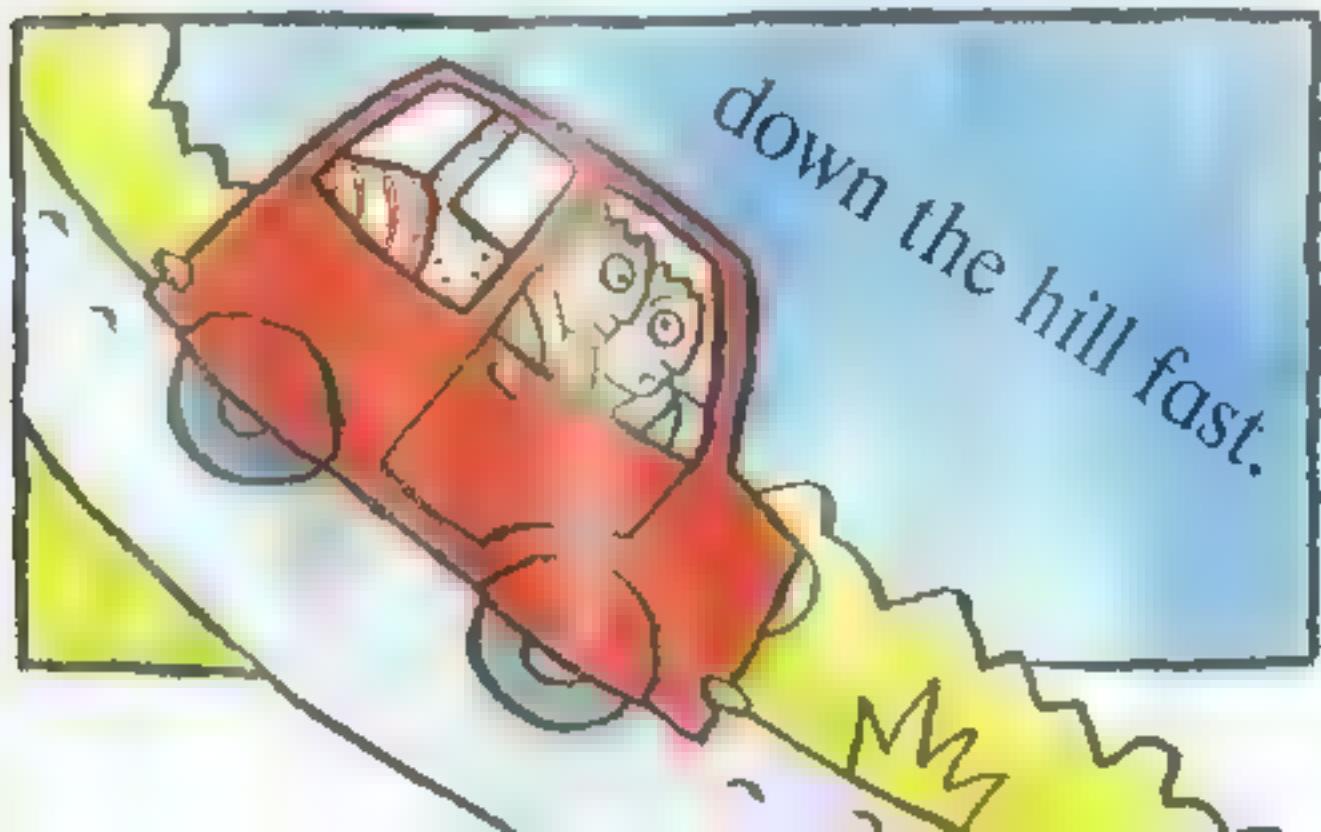
written by Shirley Jackson  
illustrated by Ant Parker



The car went up the hill,

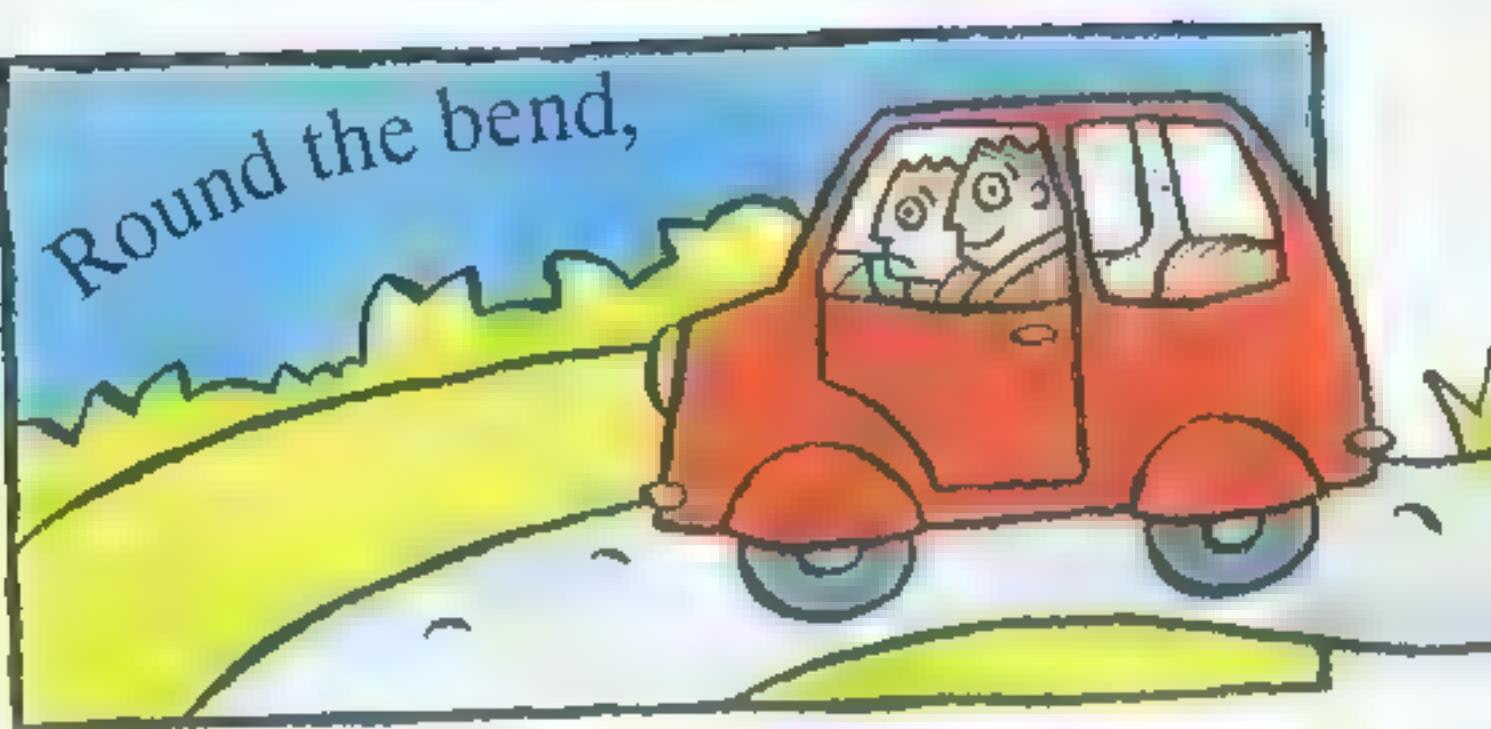


over the hill,

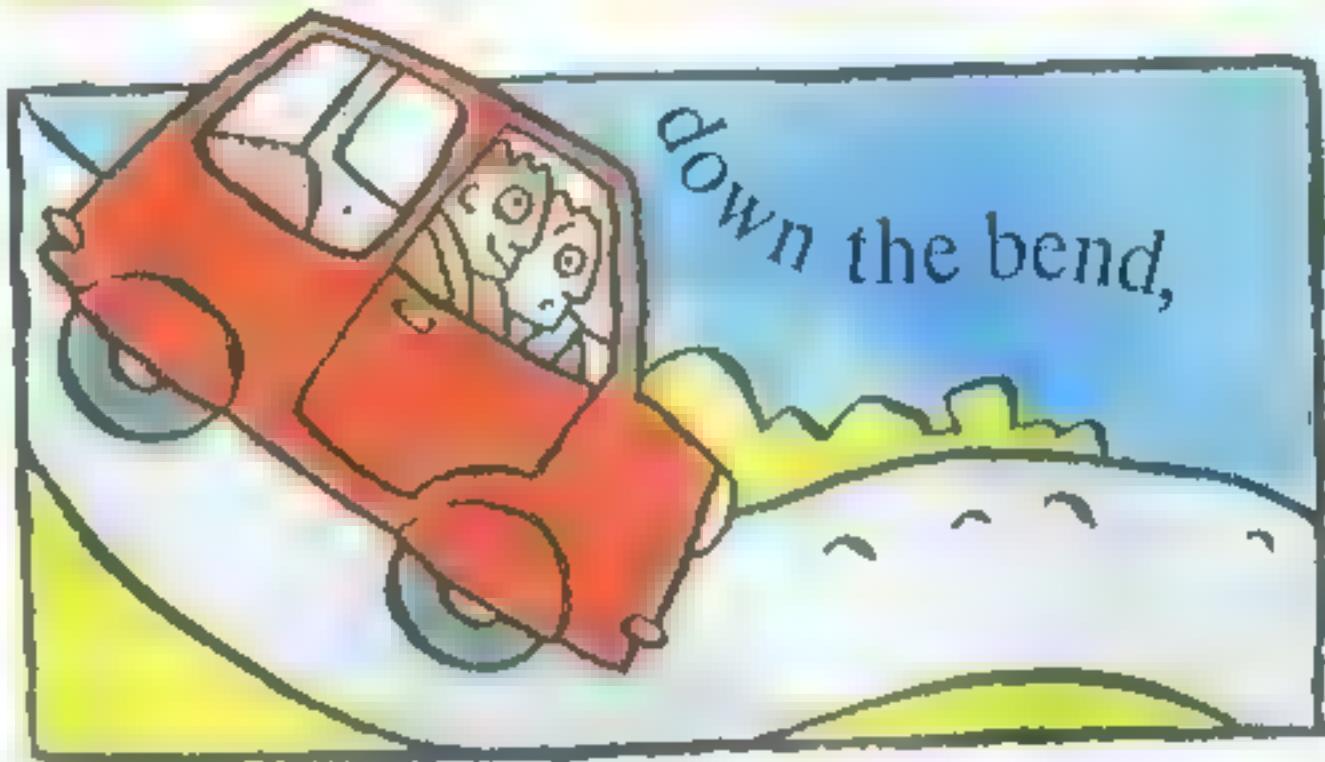


down the hill fast.

Round the bend,



down the bend,



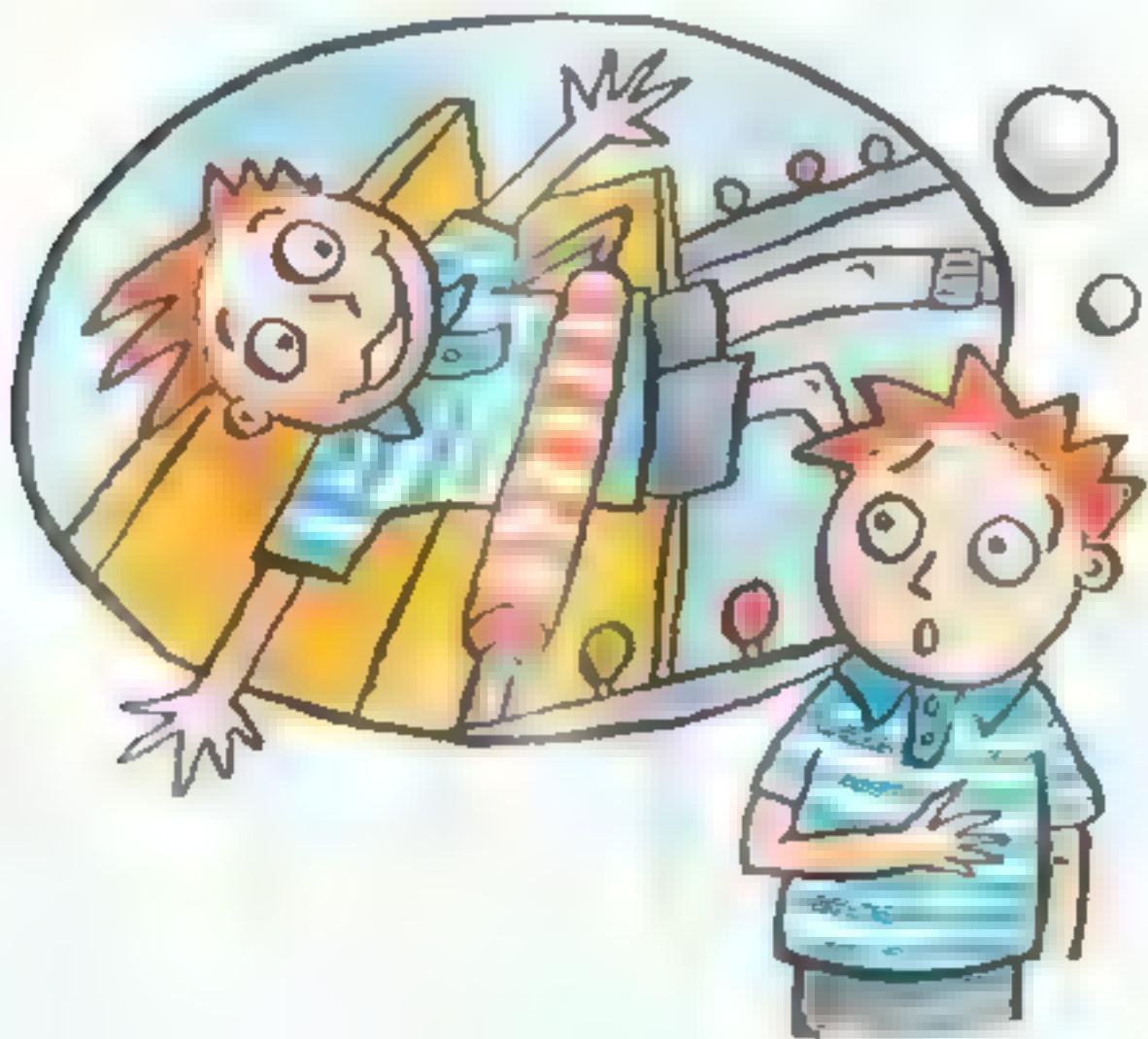
along the road at last.



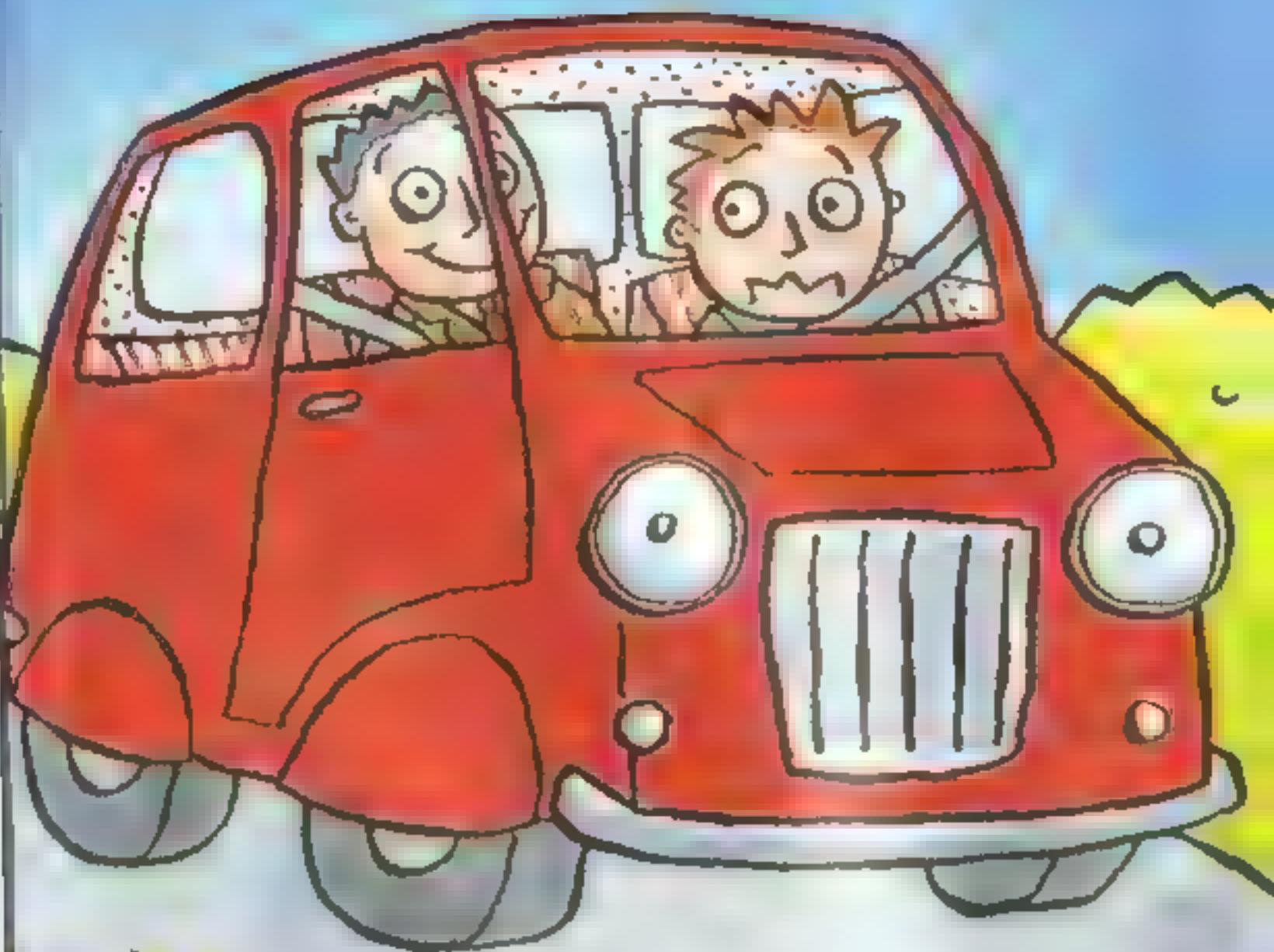
The drinks were too fizzy.



The rides made me dizzy.



The car made me sick.



“Let me out. Quick!”



## New words introduced in this book

along	leg	Sunday
bend	lots	swimming
best	Monday	talk
broke	much	their
called	plain	Thursday
came	pool	Tuesday
car	Saturday	us
climb	sick	walk
cook	sing	Wednesday
dizzy	skip	won't
drinks		
fizzy		
Friday		
friend		
from		
knit		



New character names. *James, Lucy, Sam*

# Learning to read with this book

## My dad can't dance

Encourage your child to look at each picture and to read the words above it, with your help if necessary. Then re-read the whole story more fluently, enjoying the humour and the rhyme.

## When I broke my leg

Look through the pictures and then encourage your child to read this story to you. Prompt any words he does not know by asking what he thinks the word is likely to be. Also talk about how the letters and their sounds help him to work out the word. Ask him to go back and re-read any sentence containing newly learnt or corrected words.

## My diary

Help your child to read this story. Take time to enjoy the pictures together and talk about what's happening and how the writer is feeling.

Encourage your child to write some entries in his own diary!





## A rough ride home

Encourage your child to read this several times so that he memorises the rhyme and enjoys reading it with increasing fluency. Help him to notice the spelling patterns in the rhyming words:

fast

last

fizzy

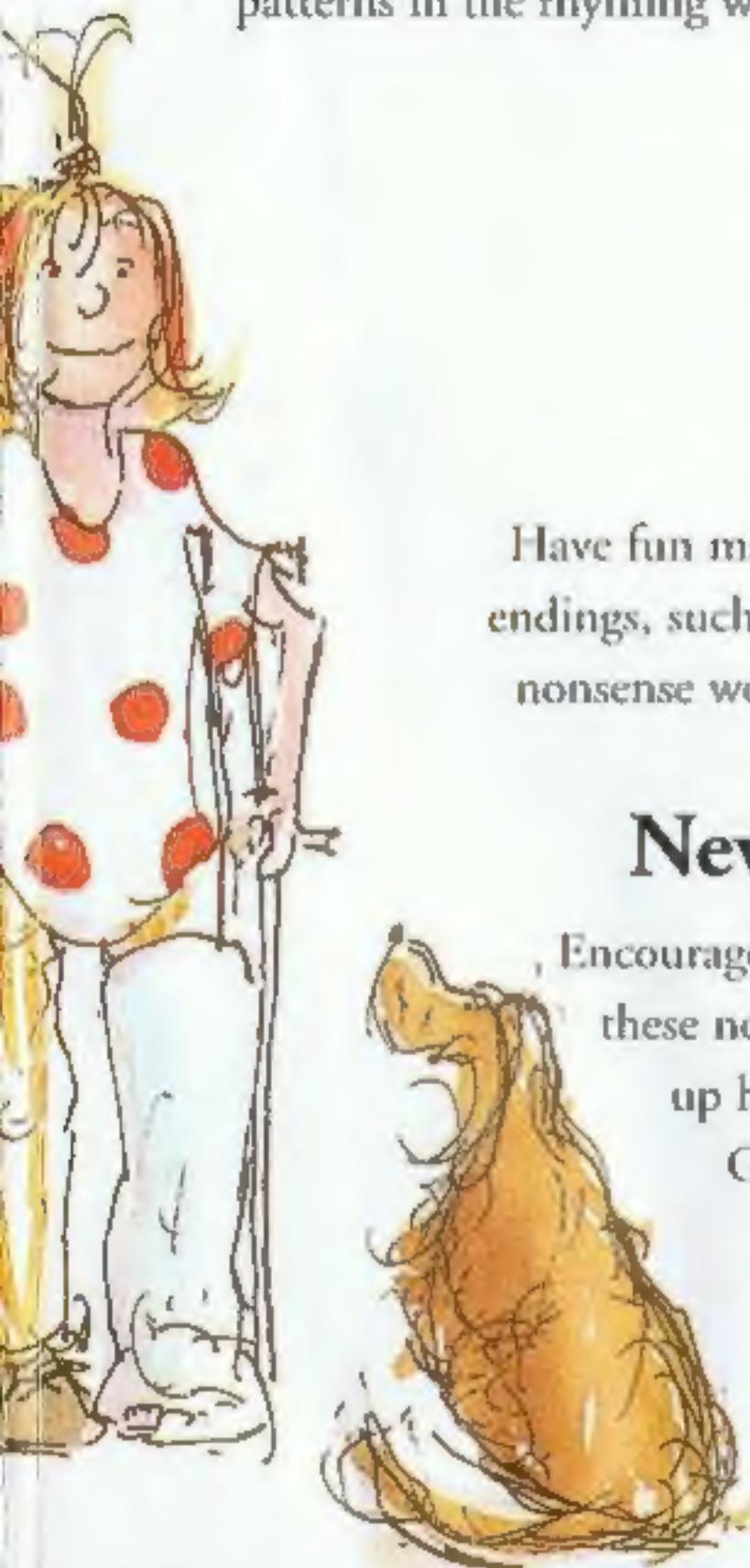
dizzy

Have fun making other words using these endings, such as 'blast', or building nonsense words like 'zizzy'.

## New words

Encourage your child to use some of these new words in this list to make up his own stories and rhymes.

Go back to look at earlier books and their wordlists to practise other words.



# Read with Ladybird

**Read with Ladybird** has been written to help you to help your child:

- to take the first steps in reading
- to improve early reading progress
- to gain confidence

## Main Features

- **Several stories and rhymes in each book**

This means that there is not too much for you and your child to read in one go.

- **Rhyme and rhythm**

**Read with Ladybird** uses rhymes or stories with a rhythm to help your child to predict and memorise new words.

- **Gradual introduction and repetition of key words**

**Read with Ladybird** introduces and repeats the 100 most frequently used words in the English language.

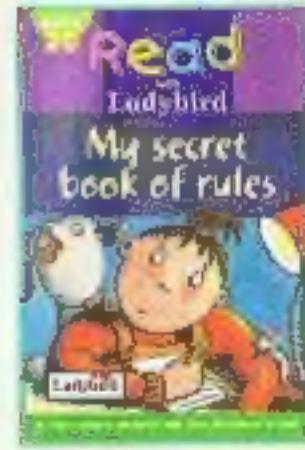
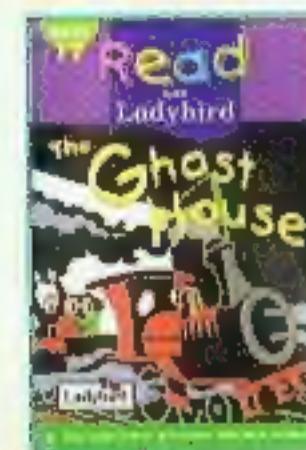
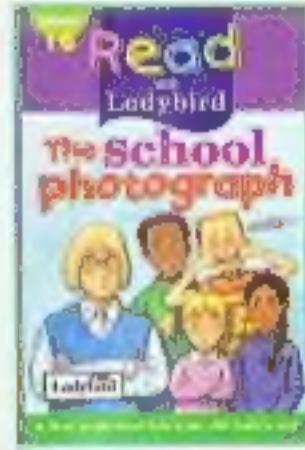
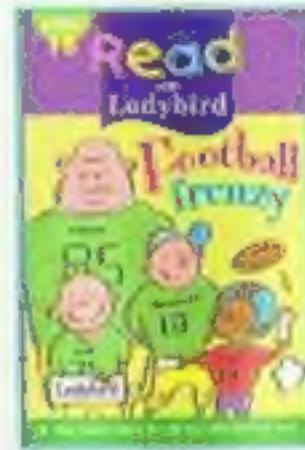
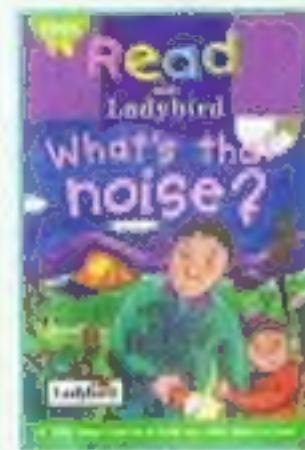
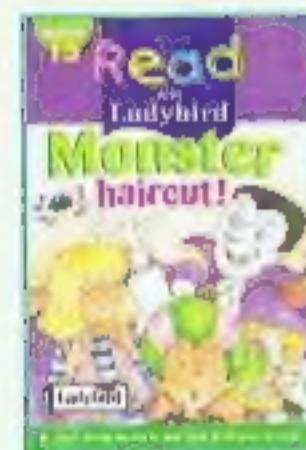
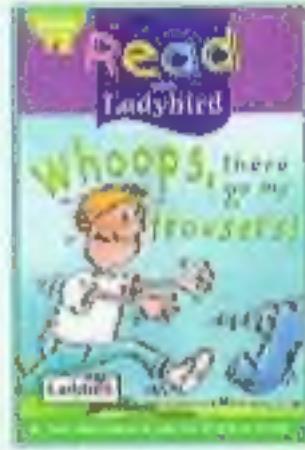
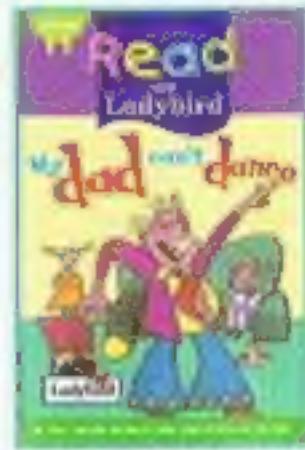
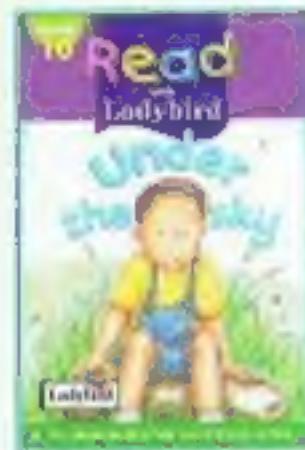
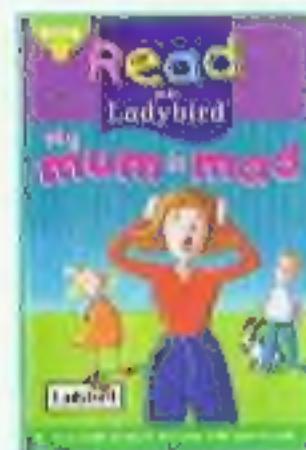
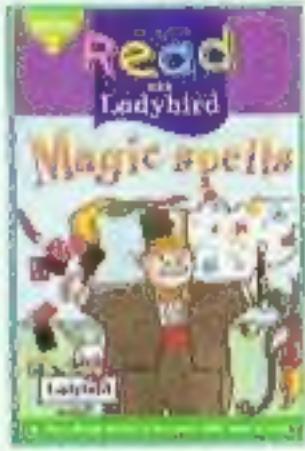
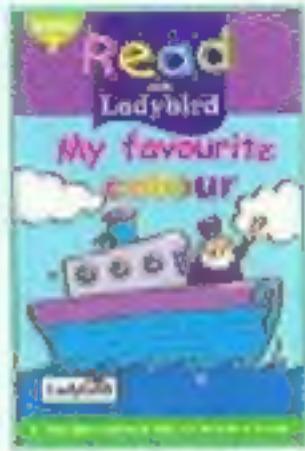
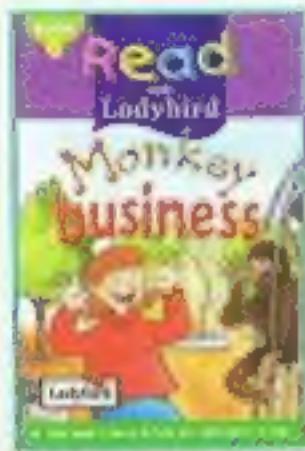
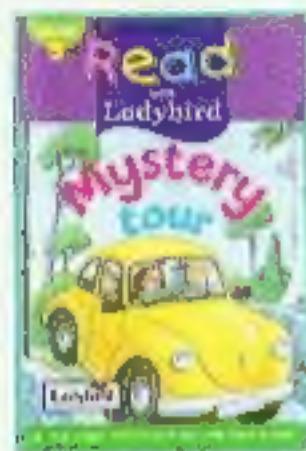
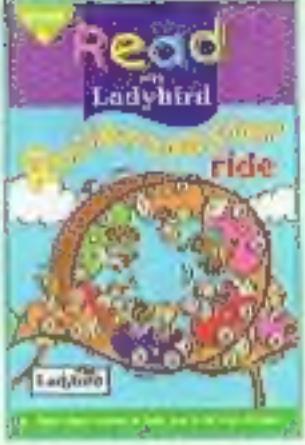
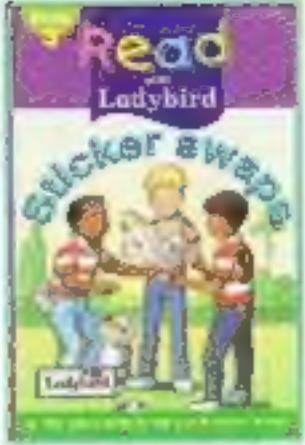
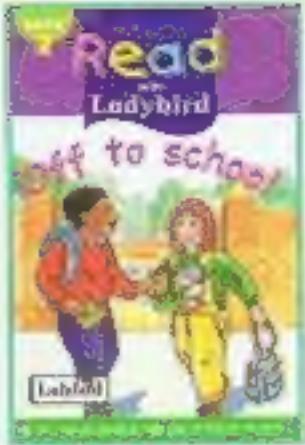
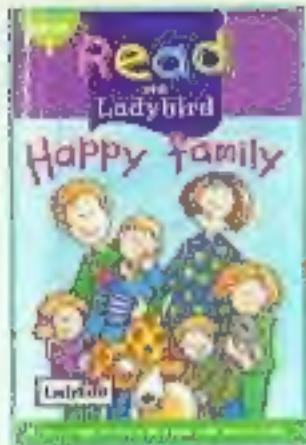
- **Compatible with school reading schemes**

The key words that your child will learn are compatible with the word lists that are used in schools. This means that you can be confident that practising at home will support work done at school.

- **Information pullout**

Use this pullout to understand more about how you can use each story to help your child to learn to read.

But the most important feature of **Read with Ladybird** is for you and your child to have fun sharing the stories and rhymes with each other.



# Read with Ladybird

My dad can't dance, my mum  
can't sing – but you'll still love them!

- You can help your child to practise his reading by spending 10 minutes a day sharing short stories and simple rhymes.
- Books 9–16 of *Read with Ladybird* are ideal for children who are in the early stages of learning to read.
- You can be confident that practising at home with *Read with Ladybird* will support work done at school.

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